



Congress of the United States  
House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515-0906

April 27, 2026

The Honorable Robert F. Kennedy, Jr.  
Secretary  
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services  
200 Independence Avenue, SW  
Washington, DC 20201

Dear Secretary Kennedy:

We write to urge you to immediately suspend and propose the debarment of the Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR) and its affiliates, including CAIR-California (CAIR-CA), from participation in United States Federal Government non-procurement programs pursuant to 2 C.F.R. Part 180. CAIR's longstanding ties to terrorist organizations, including Hamas—a U.S.-designated Foreign Terrorist Organization (FTO)<sup>1</sup>—combined with documented financial mismanagement and misuse of federal grant funds administered by the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), pose a grave risk to national security and render CAIR unfit to receive taxpayer dollars.

CAIR purports to be a civil rights organization dedicated to enhancing understanding of Islam, protecting civil liberties, and empowering American Muslims. Since 2022, HHS has sub-granted more than \$15 million to CAIR through the California Department of Social Services for Afghan resettlement programs.<sup>2</sup> However, overwhelming evidence confirms the nonprofit's deep and enduring connections to the Muslim Brotherhood and its Palestinian branch, Hamas.<sup>3</sup>

CAIR was formed in the aftermath of a 1993 Philadelphia meeting, where prominent U.S. Muslim Brotherhood leaders devised a scheme to form a secretive Hamas support group in North America.<sup>4</sup> Since then, at least seven CAIR officials have been arrested, convicted, or detained on terrorism-related charges.<sup>5</sup>

In 2007, CAIR was listed as an unindicted co-conspirator in *United States v. Holy Land Foundation*, the largest terrorism-financing prosecution in U.S. history, in which a senior CAIR official, Ghassan Elashi, was sentenced to 65 years in prison for funneling \$12 million to Hamas.<sup>6</sup> In direct talks with U.S. officials this year, Hamas reportedly bartered for Elashi's release with the lives of American hostages kidnapped on October 7, 2023.<sup>7</sup>

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.meforum.org/mef-online/finally-a-legitimate-effort-to-designate-the-council-on-american-islamic-relations-as-a-terrorist-group>.

<sup>2</sup> <https://open.fiscal.ca.gov/transparency.html>

<sup>3</sup> *Ibid.* <https://www.meforum.org/mef-online/finally-a-legitimate-effort-to-designate-the-council-on-american-islamic-relations-as-a-terrorist-group>.

<sup>4</sup> <https://www.investigativeproject.org/282/cair-executive-director-placed-at-hamas-meeting>

<sup>5</sup> <https://www.nationalreview.com/2014/11/cair-terror-group-daniel-pipes/amp/>.

<sup>6</sup> <https://www.investigativeproject.org/case/65/us-v-holy-land-foundation>.

<sup>7</sup> <https://www.nytimes.com/2025/04/10/world/middleeast/trump-israel-hamas-hostages.html>.

Recent executive actions at the state and federal levels have formally targeted CAIR for its ties to terrorism. On November 28, 2025, Texas Governor Greg Abbott issued a proclamation designating the Muslim Brotherhood and CAIR as Foreign Terrorist and Transnational Criminal Organizations under the Texas Penal and Texas Property Codes.<sup>8</sup> On January 13, 2026, the U.S. Department of Treasury and the State Department designated Muslim Brotherhood chapters in Egypt, Jordan, and Lebanon as terrorist groups.<sup>9</sup> According to the White House, the Muslim Brotherhood “fuels terrorism and destabilization campaigns against U.S. interests and allies in the Middle East.”<sup>10</sup>

Compounding these national security threats, CAIR-CA is suspected of egregiously misusing federal funds from the HHS Office of Refugee Resettlement (ORR). As detailed in a March 13, 2025, complaint filed by the Intelligent Advocacy Network (IAN) with the Department of Justice’s Executive Office for Immigration Review, CAIR-CA received over \$7.2 million in ORR funds via the Afghan Legal Services Project (ALSP22-0002) to provide legal aid to Afghan nationals.<sup>11</sup>

Yet, public records reveal rampant financial irregularities: redirecting \$3.6 million to itself and non-independent CAIR chapters in violation of grant terms; woefully inadequate service delivery, filing a low volume of immigration cases despite receiving substantial funding; inconsistent entity naming in grant applications; and failure to report millions in government grants on 2022 and 2023 IRS Form 990s (reporting \$0 and \$127,269, respectively, despite \$7+ million received).

Under 2 C.F.R. § 180.700, suspension is warranted where there is adequate evidence of conduct constituting a cause for debarment, including violations of federal grant terms under § 180.800(f) and other causes of so serious a nature affecting present responsibility under § 180.800(h)—such as CAIR’s provision of material support to an FTO in violation of 18 U.S.C. § 2339B.

CAIR’s status as a federal grant recipient not only jeopardizes public funds but also threatens national security by subsidizing an entity aligned with terrorist groups and extremist movements. Immediate suspension is essential to prevent further harm, followed by formal debarment proceedings to bar CAIR from all federal non-procurement programs, including ORR grants.

We respectfully request that HHS conduct a full investigation into CAIR’s grant compliance and terrorist affiliations, and promptly initiate suspension if the organization is found to be in non-compliance. We look forward to working with you to protect American taxpayers and safeguard our national security.

Respectfully,



Chip Roy  
Member of Congress



Keith Self  
Member of Congress



Randy Fine  
Member of Congress

<sup>8</sup> <https://gov.texas.gov/news/post/governor-abbott-designates-muslim-brotherhood-cair-as-foreign-terrorist-organizations>.

<sup>9</sup> <https://home.treasury.gov/news/press-releases/sb0357>.

<sup>10</sup> <https://www.whitehouse.gov/presidential-actions/2025/11/designation-of-certain-muslim-brotherhood-chapters-as-foreign-terrorist-organizations-and-specially-designated-global-terrorists/>.

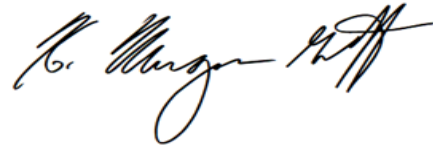
<sup>11</sup> [https://img1.wsimg.com/blobby/go/5c6132a7-a4c3-4713-8512-6ffec7715f01/downloads/db8c91e9-647d-49b4-aa19-f6b2631db05d/IAN\\_FINAL\\_COMPLAINT\\_-\\_CAIR-CA\\_3.13.25.pdf?ver=1763521508062](https://img1.wsimg.com/blobby/go/5c6132a7-a4c3-4713-8512-6ffec7715f01/downloads/db8c91e9-647d-49b4-aa19-f6b2631db05d/IAN_FINAL_COMPLAINT_-_CAIR-CA_3.13.25.pdf?ver=1763521508062).



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